

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7111

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 5 L I N E 2

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAID, EEC

SUBJECT:: JUNE 25 EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS) - ROUND UP

1. SUMMARY: THE JUNE 25 EC COUNCIL SESSION (FOREIGN MINISTERS)
MADE USEFUL PROGRESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES (SEPTEL) AND AGREED ON THE TEXT OF A LETTER TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM WHICH INDICATES THE COMMUNITY'S WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN EMERGENCY FUND FOR THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED LDCE (SEPTELS). THE COUNCIL
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ALSO APPROVED A SPECIAL ONE-TIME FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA

TO HELP MEET ITS BUDGETARY DEFICIT (SEPTEL). IN OTHER ACTIONS, THE COUNCIL ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE A CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURE FOR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH STATE-TRADING NATIONS AND OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, AGREED TO SEND A DELEGATION TO KINGSTON JULY 25-26 TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ACP COUNTRIES, AND ACTED ON A NUMBER OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. IMPROVEMENTS IN DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES. THE COUNCIL AT THIS SESSION INAUGURATED A NEW PROCEDURE, APPROVED AT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION JUNE 4, THAT IS, A DEBATE ON THE POLICY ASPECTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE AGENDA ITEMS IN A RESTRICTED SESSION PRECEDING THE COUNCIL SESSION. (ANOTHER INNOVATION, AGREED TO AT THE JUNE 4 COUNCIL, OCCURRED ON JUNE 20, WHEN COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI MET WITH THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) TO DISCUSS AND PREPARE THE UPCOMING COUNCIL SESSION.) THIS RESTRICTED SESSION WAS LIMITED FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS, STATE SECRETARIES, AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES. PRESIDENT ORTOLI ATTENDED FOR THE COMMISSION.

3. THE FIRST REGULAR AGENDA ITEM FOR THE COUNCIL SESSION CONCERNED ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS IN DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES. THE COUNCIL AGREED ON A DECLARATION OF INTENTION: 1) TO IMPROVE THE PROCEDURE FOR DECISION-MAKING WITHIN THE COUNCIL (SPECIFICALLY, BY GREATER RECOURSE TO ABSTENTIONS WHEN CONSENSUS CAN NOT BE ACHIEVED); 2) TO MAKE GREATER USE IN THE FUTURE OF ARTICLE 155 OF THE EEC TREATY BY CONFERRING GREATER POWERS ON THE COMMISSION FOR EXECUTION OF THE REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL ALSO DECIDED THAT ITS PRESIDENT SHOULD PLAY A SPECIAL ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE DECLARATION OF INTENTION AND TO THIS END THE RESTRICTED SESSION WOULD CONTINUE TO PRECEDE EACH COUNCIL.

4. THE MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED A BENELUX PROPOSAL FOR "EXPANDED" COUNCILS TO INCLUDE TWO OR MORE MINISTERS FROM EACH MEMBER STATE AS APPROPRIATE SO THAT QUESTIONS CONCERNING MORE THAN ONE MINISTRY COULD BE SETTLED WITHOUT THE DELAY NORMALLY INVOLVED IN REFERRING THE SAME SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT SPECIALIZED COUNCILS. THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING FORMULATION: "IN ORDER TO ASSURE TO COHERENCE OF COMMUNITY ACTION IT IS AGREED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT

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PROBLEMS WHICH TOUCH ON THE COMPETENCE OF SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIONS WILL BE TREATED IN PRINCIPLE IN THE SAME FRAMEWORK IN THE COUNCIL." THIS FORMULA DOES NOT, OF COURSE, PREVENT THE CALLING OF SPECIALIZED COUNCILS.

5. ACP. THE COUNCIL AGREED TO SEND A DELEGATION TO KINGSTON ON JULY 25 AND 26 AND INSTRUCTED THE COREPER TO PREPARE CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR AN EC POSITION. THE FRENCH (WHO WILL BE IN THE

CHAIR AFTER JULY 1) UNDERTOOK TO SEE THAT A SUITABLE MANDATE WOULD BE READY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL JULY 22-23.

6. COOPERATION AGREEMENTS. THE COUNCIL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE CREATION OF AN INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION PRODECURE FOR CO-OPERATION AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY MEMBER STATES. THE COREPER WAS INSTRUCTED TO DRAW UP THE TEXT OF THE PROCEDURE IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEBATE, AND TO SUBMIT IT TO THE COUNCIL OF JULY 22-23. THE PROCEDURE WILL BE OBLIGATORY AND WILL BE APPLICABLE TO ALL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN A MEMBER STATE AND A THIRD COUNTRY, THAT IS, NOT ONLY STATE TRADING COUNTRIES BUT ALSO OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THE FRENCH AND THE BRITISH HAD BEEN INITIALLY RELUCTANT TO EXTEND THE PROCEDURE TO THEIR AGREEMENTS WITH THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES BUT FINALLY WNET ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY.

7. INDUSTRIAL POLICY. THE COUNCIL EXTENDED FOR SIX MONTHS THE EXISTING DIRECTIVE ON AID TO SHIP-BUILDING. THE COUNCIL ALSO APPROVED THE RESOLUTION ON THE DATA-PROCESSING POLICY. (SEE EC BRUSSELS 3687 AND 3402.) IN REFERRING TO THAT POLICY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT GENSCHER SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD PUT FORWARD CONCRETE PROPOSALS BASED ON THE COREPER'S DECEMBER 1973 REPORT, AND ADMITTED THAT MUCH WORK STILL NEEDED TO BE DONE. COMMISSIONER SSPINELLI MADE A STATEMENT TO THE COUNCIL AND ISSUED A PUBLIC DECLARATION INDICATING HIS GREAT DISSATISFACTION WITH THE COREPER WHICH HE ACCUSED OF SO CONFUSING THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL POLICY PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION THAT THEY COULD NOT BE PROPERLY DISCUSSED BY THE MINISTERS. HE SAID IF INDEED THE MEMBER STATES WERE RESISTING THE PROPOSALS ON POLITICAL AS OPPOSED TO TECHNICAL GROUNDS, IT SHOULD BE BROUGHT OUT IN THE OPEN AT A COUNCIL MEETING.

8. BUDGETARY POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT. THE COUNCIL AND A DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIMENT (EP) HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE PROPOSALS, AGREED TO BY THE JUNE 4 COUNCIL (EC BRUSSELS UNCLASSIFIED

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3814), TO IMPROVE THE PARLIAMENT'S BUDGETARY POWERS. THE DELEGATION FROM THE EP INDICATED BASIC SATISFACTION WITH THE PROPOSALS BUT HAD ADDITIONAL POINTS WHICH, AT THE COUNCIL'S PREQUEST, IT WILL SUBMIT IN WRITING. THE PARLIAMENT ASKED FOR A SECOND MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL (RESTRICTED TO MINISTERS) TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION.

9. EUROPEAN UNION. THE COUNCIL AGREED TO SEND TO THE MEMBER STATES A QUESTIONNAIRE, PREPARED BY THE COREPER, TO ELICIT THEIR VIEWS ON EUROPEAN UNION. THE QUESTIONNAIRE WILL CONSIST OF TEN GENERAL HEADINGS, SUCH AS THE DREGRE OF INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH THE COMMUNITY SHOULD ATTAIN IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE EUROPEAN UNION, THE TIMETABLE, THE AREA OF COMPETENCE OF A UNION, INSTITUIONS OF THE UNION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES, FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND CONSITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. COUNCIL PRESIDENT GENSCHER SAID THAT

EACH MEMBER STATE COULD ADD TO THIS LIST AS WELL AS INDICATED
THOSE HADINGS IT CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT.

10. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE
COUNCIL, GENSCHER SUMMED UP THE PERIOD OF THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY
BY SAYING THAT ONE COULD LOOK BACK OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS
WITH SATISFACTION. THE TIME HAD NOT BEEN GOOD ONE FOR THE
COMMUNITY, AND IT HAD HAD TO FACE MANY PROBLEMS, NOTABLY, THE
ENERGY CRISIS. HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM OF UK RENEGITIATION WAS BEING
DEALTH WITH IN A COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK; THE BUDGETARY POWERS OF THE
EP HAD BEEN IMPROVED; AND THERE HAD BEEN OTHER IMPORTANT DECISIONS.
HE INDIACATED OPTIMISM FOR THE COMMUNITY'S FUTURE AND EMPHASIZED
THAT A NEW SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL NOW PREVAILS.

11. FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE PRESENTLY SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:
JUNE 27- TRANSPORT (IN LUXEMBOURG); JULY 15 - ECON/FINANCE;
JULY 15-16 - AGRICULTURE; JULY 16 - DEVELOPMENT; JULY 22-23
- FOREIGN AFFAIRS.GREENWALD

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